In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system for facilitating the implementation by a customer of adding a particular network element to be managed by a telecommunications network element manager or of modifying the management of the particular network element already being managed by the element manager, comprising:

a terminal data interface receiving an I/O source document specific to the particular network element, the document being converted to HTML format and provided to the customer,

said data interface including an adapter database toolkit, wherein the toolkit responds to a command from the customer to

extract information about Transaction Language 1 (TL1)~~TL1~~ commands from the HTML source document and

generate from the TL1 command information an XML file ~~for~~ to be used by an adapter database that is specific to the particular network element; and

an operator interface, wherein the terminal data interface uses the adapter database to provide at the operator interface a command window which facilitates parameter entry for and construction of TL1 commands.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1 wherein said toolkit extracts information about TL1 commands from the HTML source document, including extracting a command function menu.

4. (previously presented) The system of Claim 1 wherein the I/O source document converted to HTML format includes hidden tags inserted to flag specific adapter database data.

5. (currently amended) The ~~NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI)~~ system of Claim 1 wherein said operator interface comprises a response window.

6. (currently amended) The ~~NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI)~~ system of Claim 1 wherein said operator interface comprises a command creation panel.

7. (currently amended) The ~~NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI)~~ system of Claim 5 wherein said command creation panel comprises a command code tree.

8. (currently amended) The ~~NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI)~~ system of Claim 5 wherein said command creation panel comprises a command parameter panel.

9. (currently amended) The ~~NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI)~~ system of Claim 8 wherein said command creation panel comprises a command string panel.

Claims 10 – 19 (canceled)

20. (Withdrawn) A NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) Operator/User Interface system comprising:

(a) menubar;

(b) command window;

(c) response window; and

(d) command creation panel;

wherein

said menubar permits an operator to select various interface command functions;

said command window displays operator commands sent to a network element;

said response window displays information from said network element in response to said operator commands;

said command creation panel permits said operator to select network element commands based on a command code tree and optional command parameter panel;

said command creation panel contains an optional command string panel for the assembly of said operator commands in response to selections by said operator from said command code tree as augmented by said command parameter panel; and

said command code tree is created in response to information retrieved from an adapter database.

21. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) Operator/User Interface system of Claim 20 wherein said menubar further comprises FILE, PREFERENCES, RESPONSES, COMMANDS, and HELP menus.

22. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) Operator/User Interface system of Claim 20 wherein one or more components of said system is implemented within an application programming interface (API).

23 (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) Operator/User Interface system of Claim 20 wherein one or more components of said system is implemented on a personal computer (PC).

24. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) Operator/User Interface system of Claim 23 wherein said personal computer utilizes a HP-UX™ operating environment.

25. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) Operator/User Interface system of Claim 23 wherein said personal computer utilizes a LINUX™ operating environment.

26. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) Operator/User Interface system of Claim 23 wherein said personal computer utilizes a SOLARIS™ operating environment.

27. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) Operator/User Interface system of Claim 23 wherein said personal computer utilizes a UNIX™ operating environment.

28. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) Operator/User Interface system of Claim 23 wherein said personal computer utilizes a Microsoft® Windows™ operating environment.

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29. (Withdrawn) A NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method comprising:

(1) entering connection method, network address, user identifier and password information;

(2) making a connection to a network element and logging on said network element;

(3) sending and receiving commands to said network element to determine its type and version;

(4) opening and reading appropriate files to create command trees for said network element;

(5) permitting a user to select commands from said command trees;

(6) retrieving command parameters from said files;

(7) creating editable fields for each said parameter;

(8) building commands for said network elements as values are filled in for said parameters;

(9) sending said commands to said network element; and

(10) optionally writing responses to said commands to a response display;

wherein

said connections occur via a network communication means.

30. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 29 wherein said selected commands are entered via an editable command field.

31. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 29 wherein said selected commands are entered via a non-editable combo box.

32. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 29 wherein said selected commands are activated via an operator interface comprising a menubar interface further comprising FILE, PREFERENCES, RESPONSES, COMMANDS, and HELP menus.

33. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 29 wherein said sent commands are displayed within a command window operator interface.

34. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 29 wherein said response display comprises a response window within an operator interface.

35. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 29 wherein said command trees are displayed in a command code tree within a command creation panel operator interface.

36. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 29 wherein said command parameters are displayed in a command parameter panel within a command creation panel operator interface.

37. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 29 wherein said built commands are displayed in a command string panel within a command creation panel operator interface.

38. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 29 wherein said files comprise XML.

39. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 29 wherein one or more steps of said method is implemented within an application programming interface (API).

40. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 29 wherein said communication occurs through a serial port connection.

41. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 29 wherein said communication occurs over the Internet.

42. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 29 wherein one or more steps of said method is implemented on a personal computer (PC).

43 (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 42 wherein said personal computer utilizes a HP-UX™ operating environment.

44. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 42 wherein said personal computer utilizes a LINUX™ operating environment.

45. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 42 wherein said personal computer utilizes a SOLARIS™ operating environment.

46. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 42 wherein said personal computer utilizes a UNIX™ operating environment.

47. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 42 wherein said personal computer utilizes a Microsoft® Windows™ operating environment.

48 (Withdrawn) A NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) software update method comprising:

(11) distributing an I/O manual storage medium to a customer;

(12) distributing a TL1DAT application storage medium to said customer;

(13) installing said TL1DAT with an on-line user guide;

(14) loading a network element I/O manual from said I/O manual storage medium;

(15) copying said network element I/O manual to a local storage medium;

(16) selecting a network installation option in said TL1DAT application;

(17) specifying a target location for said I/O manual to said TL1DAT application;

(18) creating an XML file from said I/O manual files;

(19) using said XML files to create enhanced dialog screens for presentation to said customer; and

(20) repeating steps (1)-(10) as necessary for each network element type and/or version.

49. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 48 wherein said I/O manual storage medium is a CDROM.

50 (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 48 wherein said TL1DAT storage medium is a CDROM.

51. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 48 wherein said files comprise XML.

52. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 48 wherein one or more steps of said method is implemented within an application programming interface (API).

53. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 48 wherein one or more of said storage media is accessed over the Internet.

54. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 48 wherein one or more steps of said method is implemented on a personal computer (PC).

55. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 54 wherein said personal computer utilizes a HP-UX™ operating environment.

56. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 54 wherein said personal computer utilizes a LINUX™ operating environment.

57. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 54 wherein said personal computer utilizes a SOLARIS™ operating environment.

58. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 54 wherein said personal computer utilizes a UNIX™ operating environment.

59. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 54 wherein said personal computer utilizes a Microsoft® Windows™ operating environment.

60. (Withdrawn) A NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) adapter database method comprising:

(21) generating I/O source documents for a network element;

(22) converting said I/O source documents to a standard file format and optionally inserting hidden tags if necessary to flag specific adapter database data;

(23) extracting command information from said standard file format to generate an XML file for an adapter database;

(24) extracting a command function menu from said standard file format to generate an XML File for said adapter database; and

(25) repeating steps (1)-(4) for each network element type and version.

61. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 60 wherein one or more steps of said method is implemented using PERL scripts.

62. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 60 wherein one or more steps of said method is implemented on a personal computer (PC).

63. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 62 wherein said personal computer utilizes a HP-UX™ operating environment.

64. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 62 wherein said personal computer utilizes a LINUX™ operating environment.

65. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 62 wherein said personal computer utilizes a SOLARIS™ operating environment.

66. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 62 wherein said personal computer utilizes a UNIX™ operating environment.

67. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 62 wherein said personal computer utilizes a Microsoft® Windows™ operating environment.

68. (Withdrawn) A NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) I/O manual file definition method comprising:

(26) generating an I/O manual source documentation XML file for a network element;

(27) incorporating network element specific data fields within said I/O manual XML file;

(28) filtering terminal data interface information from said I/O manual XML file to generate a terminal data interface module software interface;

(29) repeating step (3) for each desired terminal data interface module to be extracted; and

(30) repeating steps (1)-(4) for each network element type and version.

69. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 68 wherein one or more steps of said method is implemented using PERL scripts.

70. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 68 wherein one or more steps of said method is implemented on a personal computer (PC).

71. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 70 wherein said personal computer utilizes a HP-UX™ operating environment.

72. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 70 wherein said personal computer utilizes a LINUX™ operating environment.

73. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 70 wherein said personal computer utilizes a SOLARIS™ operating environment.

74. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 70 wherein said personal computer utilizes a UNIX™ operating environment.

75. (Withdrawn) The NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) method of Claim 70 wherein said personal computer utilizes a Microsoft® Windows™ operating environment.

76. (Withdrawn) A computer usable medium having computer-readable program code means providing NETWORK ELEMENT TERMINAL DATA INTERFACE (NETDI) functionality, said computer-readable program means comprising:

(1) computer program code means for entering connection method, network address, user identifier and password information;

(31) computer program code means for making a connection to a network element and logging on said network element;

(32) computer program code means for sending and receiving commands to said network element to determine its type and version;

(33) computer program code means for opening and reading appropriate files to create command trees for said network element;

(34) computer program code means for permitting a user to select commands from said command trees;

(35) computer program code means for retrieving command parameters from said files;

(36) computer program code means for creating editable fields for each said parameter;

(37) computer program code means for building commands for said network elements as values are filled in for said parameters;

(38) computer program code means for sending said commands to said network element; and

(39) computer program code means for optionally writing responses to said commands to a response display.

wherein

said connections occur via a network communication means.

77. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 76 wherein said selected commands are entered via an editable command field.

78. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 76 wherein said selected commands are entered via a non-editable combo box.

79. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 76 wherein said selected commands are activated via an operator interface comprising a menubar interface further comprising FILE, PREFERENCES, RESPONSES, COMMANDS, and HELP menus.

80. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 76 wherein said sent commands are displayed within a command window operator interface.

81. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 76 wherein said response display comprises a response window within an operator interface.

82. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 76 wherein said command trees are displayed in a command code tree within a command creation panel operator interface.

83. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 76 wherein said command parameters are displayed in a command parameter panel within a command creation panel operator interface.

84. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 76 wherein said built commands are displayed in a command string panel within a command creation panel operator interface.

85. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 76 wherein said files comprise XML.

86. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 76 wherein one or more steps of said functionality is implemented within an application programming interface (API).

87. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 76 wherein said communication occurs through a serial port connection.

88. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 76 wherein said communication occurs over the Internet.

89. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 76 wherein said medium is compatible with a personal computer (PC).

90. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 89 wherein said personal computer utilizes a HP-UX™ operating environment.

91. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 89 wherein said personal computer utilizes a LINUX™ operating environment.

92. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 89 wherein said personal computer utilizes a SOLARIS™ operating environment.

93. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 89 wherein said personal computer utilizes a UNIX™ operating environment.

94. (Withdrawn) The computer usable medium of Claim 89 wherein said personal computer utilizes a Microsoft® Windows™ operating environment.